presentations have been received from Passenger Associations and Chamber of Commerce.

(b) Provision of stoppages of Vanchinad Express, a fast intercity train at Chengannur and Tiruvalla has not been found justified.

Krishnapatnam Port

1167. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding the development and upgradation of Krishnapatnam Port, Nellore district, A. P.; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the estimated cost of the project and when the work on this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cross Bar Telephone Exchange in Proddutur in Andhra Pradesh

1168. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a cross bar telephone exchange at Proddutur in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 2000 lines ICP Cross-bar Exchange is planned for this place. Land has been acquired and a building is to be constructed. The exchange is expected to be commissioned in 1990-91 period.

Drop-out of Tribal students

1169. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drop-outs of tribal students from schools has increassed in recent months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the names of those States from where large scale drop-outs have been reported; and

(d) what are the details of the steps taken to check the drop-outs rate?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The drop-out rates are not collected every month or every year. The Vth All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT with reference date as 30-9-1986 is collecting information about drop-outs, among other things. The results of this Survey are not available yet.

(c) In 1982-83 in the following States/UTs the drop-out of tribal students in classes I—VII was above 80 per cent:

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal, Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(d) Children drop out of schools for a number of reasons, some of which relate to attitude of teachers, parents and students. The reasons causing a student to drop out being many, there is no single programme which if implemented, would lead to a specified reduction in drop-out rates. A whole range of programmes is needed to have an impact on the situation. Various incentive programmes like free supply of uniforms to girl students, free mid-day-meals, free text books and attendance scholarships are being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations and this Ministry has been urging

the State Governments to increase the coverage to the extent possible. These measures have been under implementation in 1986-87.

Apart from these initiatives and strengthening of existing arrangements by the State Governments, as primarily they look after school education, the Government of India is also taking some new initiatives such as 'Operation Blackboard' to make available essential facilities in all Primary Schools, strengthening and re-organisation of Non-formal education for school drop-outs, children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend wholeday schools, re-organisation and restructuring of Teacher Education and development of a Core Curriculm. All these measures together are expected to lead to a substaintial reduction in drop-out rates.

Railway Overbridges in Assam

1170. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a fresh proposal from the Government of Assam for the inclusion of ten railway over bridges in Assam in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and hardship experienced by the local people for the want of railway overbridges; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to the proposal of the Government of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) proposals for 5 road over bridges in lieu of level crossings have been initiated by the Government of Assam.

(b) and (c) The Railways can consider sanctioning these works only on receipt of firm proposals from the State Government with an undertaking to share the cost as per rules, which have not been received so far.

New Telephone Directory to the MPs. of Assam

1171. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing any newly published telephone directory of the State of Assam to the Members of Parliament from Assam; and

(b) the reasons for not up-dating all the sub-divisional telephone directories in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delhi Guwahati I.A. flight

1172. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for discontinuing the direct Delhi-Guwahati Indian Airlines flight; and

(b) whether Government propose to reintroduce Delhi-Guwahati direct flight in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Prior to 15th June, 1987, Indian Airlines were operating a non-stop B-737 service between Delhi-Guwahati in the evening hours. This flight was operating to a low seat factor. In order to improve the seat factor and also to provide an evening flight to Patna, this service has been re-scheduled, with effect from 15th June, 1987, Delhi-Patna-Guwahati and return.